GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1966
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2017
Evaluation of WDC-PMKSY
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment or evaluation has been made about the effectiveness of erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (WDC- PMKSY) and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the details of the impact of the said Scheme;
(c) whether the Scheme has helped to conserve precious water resources;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) whether the task of evaluation study/mid-term evaluation has/have been completed and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons of pendency and the targets to be achieved?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) to (e): The area development programmes on watershed basis were implemented under various schemes such as the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), the Desert Development Programme (DDP) and the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) since 1995-96, which were merged into a single modified programme called the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. Since 01.7.2015 IWMP has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC − PMKSY).

Department of Land Resources has sanctioned 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States (except Goa) [during the period 2009-10 to 2014-15] covering an area of about 39.07 million hectare under WDC-PMKSY principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands.

The activities being undertaken through the watershed development projects inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons, etc.

The projects are at various stages of implementation. Priority is being given to qualitative and timely completion of the on-going projects. Administrative reports of completion of 674 projects have been received from 10 States from 1st April 2017 onwards (upto 21.07.2017).

The Department of Land Resources has conducted impact assessment studies through the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), 2011-12, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), 2008, and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), 2004. The major findings of these studiesinter-alia include a rise in the ground water table, increased availability of drinking water, bringing additional areas under irrigation and cultivable wastelands under plough, improved cropping intensity and reduction of soil erosion etc. in the project areas. The reports of these studies are available in the public domain, including on the official website of the Department of Land Resources at http://dolr.nic.in/dolr/ monitoring_of_evolution.asp.

The Department of Land Resources has tied up with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad for use of space technology to monitor the watershed programme. A geo-spatial portal named SRISHTI is being implemented and used from 2015 with the assistance of NRSC for monitoring of watershed projects under the WDC - PMKSY. Boundaries of projects can be visualized together with other information including satellite images. Geo-coded and time-stamped photographs on near real time basis are uploaded on SRISHTI portal using a mobile application DRISHTI specifically developed for the purpose. The DRISHTI mobile app is in public domain for capturing photographs of activities together with geo-location and time-stamp. Both tools have been extended to all the States in 2016-17. As on 20.07.2017, about 6.63 lakh photos of activities undertaken during the implementation of WDC - PMKSY pertaining to 28 States have been uploaded.

The Department has also taken up third party Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (ME&L) of the watershed projects sanctioned during 2009-10 to 2013-14 under WDC-PMKSY and has appointed three agencies at the National level for the North, West and North East regions in 2015-16. In addition States also undertake third party evaluation of the watershed projects.

As a systemic improvement, a protocol on formal completion and closure of WDC-PMKSY projects has been formulated by the Department of Land Resources in consultation with Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and NITI Aayog. The protocol inter alia envisages to ensure (i) the due completion of unfinished works (if any), (ii) maintenance, (iii) security and (iv) sustainability of the watershed development projects. The completion and closure protocol also requires the State Level Nodal Agency to evaluate the outcome of the project or a group of projects in terms of achievement of each component sanctioned in the

Detailed Project Report and changes in the socio-economic condition of the inhabitants of that area through a quick, low-cost / cost-effective end-line evaluation. Before the projects are formally treated as closed by the Department of Land Resources, the completion and closure protocol has to be duly adopted by the States in respect of the projects administratively reported to have been completed.

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